

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL *NEWS*

June 2004
7:30 PM

"Annual Picnic"

Braddock District Council Meeting Schedule 2003-2004

June 8, 2004 Agenda

7:30 Picnic

Citizen of the Year & The BOBs
(Best of Braddock) Awards Presentation

Dates of Meetings

Next Meeting
September 14, 2004

Location of Meetings

Braddock District
Meeting Hall
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015

From the Chair:

The General Assembly finally finished its work so our elected representatives could return home. The Braddock District Council was fortunate enough to welcome several delegates and senators to our May 11th meeting. I wish I could tell you more, but as it turned out, I was called upon to represent the Laurel Hill Task Force at a meeting of the South County Federation when the Chair of the Task Force had a schedule conflict.

We had to do a little juggling due to the postponement from April of the lawmakers' presentation. It was necessary to scrub the presentation by the Potomac River Greenways, the organization that runs the Master Watershed Stewardship Program. I invited them back in either October or November, since September is already scheduled for the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

One important event that took place was the BDC Citizen of the Year Award committee meeting. I would like to thank former COY and past BDC Chair John Shivik, Vice-Chair Jan Hedetniemi and Colin Campbell for reviewing the five (yes, five!) outstanding nominations. We usually like to keep the winners a surprise for as long as we can, so I am not going to tell you the results here. You'll have to come to the June 8 BDC Picnic to find out!

There's a lot going on, as usual, in our district, but I suppose the ongoing Task Force on Gang Activity and Revitalization is one of the most important initiatives, especially in light of the two recent, serious gang-related attacks elsewhere in Fairfax County. Braddock District is leading the way in identifying the problem and solution. The Task Force concludes soon, so please stand by for the final results.

The other 'big news' was the brouhaha over the Solid Waste Management Plan. You will recall that

one of our presentations last year was concerning this topic. In fact, several of you actually filled out surveys to be used in the data collection for the plan. After the dust settled, it appears that the County will take perhaps a more active ‘oversight’ role in the trash collection arena, but will not actually run it, as the proposal seemed to be saying.

Finally, we need to think about next year’s BDC Board. We are required to have one, so I am asking for volunteers. I’m willing to stay on, but if anyone else would like to be Chair for 2004-2005, now is the time to speak up! I hope some of this year’s officers will consider continuing on in the same or other role. The offices are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. I know there are a lot of issues out there, so here is a good way for someone, anyone, perhaps YOU, to take a leadership role in Braddock District. We will hold elections at the June meeting, so I am hopeful to have a slate of candidates by then.

Bob Cosgriff, Chairman

SUPERVISOR BULOVA’S CORNER

The Cicadas are back and should be in full form in time for our **June 8th Braddock District Council picnic**. Fortunately, the event is held indoors and Cicadas will not be on the menu. The 17 Year Cicadas hold some significance to me. The last time they filled the air with their high pitched trills and kamikaze flight patterns, I was walking door-to-door, running for office for the first time. A lot can happen in 17 years. A lot has.


In 1987:

- δ We were called the Annandale District.
- δ All of Burke Centre and West Springfield were in the Springfield District.
- δ Many of our “infill” neighborhoods had not yet been built.
- δ The Fairfax County Parkway did not exist.
- δ Braddock Road west of Guinea Road was just two lanes.

- δ Shirley Gate Road was still only two lanes wide and did not connect to Waples Mill Road.
- δ Guinea Road between Braddock Road to just south of Pomeroy Drive was being widened to four lanes, but the portions of Burke Lake Road and Rolling Road that are in the Braddock District were still two lanes.
- δ We were trying to iron out insurance issues and get final agreement from the railroads to begin the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail project. The Burke Centre, Rolling Road and Backlick VRE stations did not yet exist.
- δ The Roberts Parkway overpass had not been built, and cars still crossed the Norfolk Southern Railroad at-grade.
- δ You could not drive from Burke Centre to Little River Turnpike in Fairfax via Roberts Road without zig-zagging through Kings Park West.
- δ Target in Burke did not exist.
- δ The Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College was still under construction.
- δ The Little River Glen independent living facility for senior citizens was still in the planning stage.
- δ Within the next few years, the County would be invaded by gypsy moths and we would be spraying neighborhoods aerially with Dimilin and BT.
- δ The Chesapeake Bay and Clean Air Acts had not yet been adopted and the County was still operating under the Fairfax County Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted in 1976.
- δ Our Braddock District Tree Project, which would result in trees being planted in the medians of Braddock Road and other main arterials, had not yet been conceived.
- δ We did not have summer concerts in our Braddock District parks.

I could go on and on, but need to stop somewhere! Happily, some things have remained a constant. Braddock District has been blessed with a District Council of Community Associations that has provided a forum for community leaders to learn about what is going on and to have a voice on issues that affect them. Individual community activists have come and gone but, for the most part, the structure that keeps our neighborhoods strong and vital has stayed intact. I look forward to thanking you in person for providing that bedrock that's necessary for our quality of life. See you at the Picnic on June 8th!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS

May has been a very busy month for the School Board. After a long delay, the state has finally passed its budget, and the School Board can now work on our budget. Thanks to increased funding from the state, and lower than projected enrollment, the School Board is considering funding some items which were previously cut from the budget. This includes increased funding for parent liaisons, full payment for IB/AP tests, expansion of full day kindergarten to nine more schools, and a placeholder to address the issue of after school programs for middle school students. All of these are important, and I am optimistic that we will be able to include these in the budget.

The Board has also finalized its selection of a candidate to be the next Superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools. The Board's choice is Dr. Jack Dale, the Superintendent of Frederick County, Maryland schools.

Dr. Dale has been Superintendent of the Frederick school system since 1996, and in 2000 was chosen as Superintendent of the Year for Maryland Public Schools. He has a wealth of school experience, including extensive HR and administrative leadership.

While in Frederick County Dr. Dale, has among other achievements, increased the use of technology in the schools, the number of students taking advanced level courses, implemented all day kindergarten, and developed a five year master plan budget for that school system.

I was very impressed by Dr. Dale's skills at working with all the major stakeholders to build consensus for his school system, and I am looking forward to Dr. Dale using those skills here in Fairfax County.

The School Board will be planning a series of meetings to introduce Dr. Dale to the community and parents over the next several months. I hope you will all try to attend one of these events.

There have been some comments recently about the School Board's process in selecting our new Superintendent. Many of the candidates we considered would only put their names forward if our Board would offer them complete confidentiality. Many of them were sitting Superintendents in other districts, and did not want their Boards to know they were actively considering other jobs. They were concerned that if people thought they were interested in leaving their current jobs, and did not get this job, that their working relationships with their current Boards and communities would be damaged.

As this Board wanted to be able to consider as many qualified candidates as possible, we decided to conduct our search in strict confidence. We did solicit community input about what qualities the ideal candidate would have. And in our deliberations, we did evaluate each candidate against the criteria which the community established.

I believe Dr. Dale will do a tremendous job as Superintendent, and I look forward to working with him in the coming years.

Tessie Wilson
Braddock District School Board Member

LAUREL HILL NEWS:

Activity continues at Laurel Hill. The Fairfax County Park Authority is in the public comment phase of its Master Plan. As for the Adaptive Reuse Task Force, we convened a meeting of educational leaders to discuss possible educational/cultural uses of the Central/Maximum site on Silverbrook Road. We invited nearly 40 officials from institutions between Baltimore and Blacksburg to attend. While the turnout was not what we had hoped, it nonetheless gave the LHTF important input, and we will attempt follow-up with institutions that did not attend. The following is a preliminary summary of the results of the meeting:

The Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens Task Force sponsored a summit on April 30, 2004 to gather more information about the potential use of the Central/Maximum site for educational or cultural uses. Invitations were extended to 57 officials representing 35 public and private colleges, universities and other institutions. The summit was attended by representatives of George Mason University (1), Northern Virginia Community College (3), Old Dominion University (1) and the Archdiocese of Arlington (2). Additional outreach is planned to those who were not able to attend.

Here are the preliminary results of the summit:

- δ Education officials suggested the 79-acre Central/Maximum site would not work as a stand-alone campus. Instead, they thought it might be possible to develop a smaller portion of the site (perhaps 45,000 square feet) under certain conditions. However, education would not drive the site.
- δ A consortium of education users might be possible if the County can provide a “turnkey solution” for future use. It was suggested that a redevelopment authority or master developer act as a broker to lease spaces for educational uses. A consortium could provide a library, shared class rooms, biotech programs or a center where classes can be transmitted electronically.
- δ The potential costs for education uses are too high unless there is investment in infrastructure (roads, parking, water, sewer, utilities) as well as gutting the interiors of buildings, removal of

cell blocks, asbestos abatement and demolition of unnecessary buildings. Flexible space for education is needed to accommodate changing uses over time.

- δ The existing buildings have limitations despite their charms. For example, the dormitories are long and narrow and not necessarily suited to a class room environment. One education participant said the proposed historic district is not an incentive. There is a need to be very selective about the structures that are saved. Education uses may require new buildings as well.
- δ Education participants believed the Task Force’s estimated construction costs and adaptive reuse costs (\$175 per square foot) are conservative. A participant from Northern Virginia Community College said they are renovating a 1967-vintage building at \$200 per square foot.
- δ While the Central/Maximum site is near Interstate 95 and the Virginia Railway Express is “a shuttle bus away,” the site is not located near Metro.
- δ Education participants suggested a mix of uses would make the site more attractive. The project requires an innovative developer with experience in rehabilitation who is able to take advantage of historic tax credits.

To keep abreast of developments at Laurel Hill, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov and enter “Laurel Hill” or go to “Planning and Zoning” to find the link. You can also check out the FCPA link on the County site.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the April meeting will be posted on the web when available.

The Braddock District Council of Community Associations (BDC) provides a forum for representatives of residential community associations to express their views on major issues of common concern. The BDC is a section 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, with geographic boundaries coterminous with the Braddock magisterial district. Meetings of the BDC are open to representatives of all homeowner, tenant and civic associations in the Braddock District. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except July and August. The mailing address is:

c/o Braddock Supervisor's Office
9002 Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015-1608

The Office telephone is 703-425-9300.

Chairman Bob Cosgriff
 (Hickory Farms)
 703-764-0720

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 703-978-8095

Treasurer Ivan Dietrich
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